

FULL 68 PAGES

AMAZING TALES



No.
101

CREEPY

WORLDS^{1!}



IN THE CLUTCHES OF
The KINGPIN!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!



WHAT'S THAT? THE CITY HIS? NOT IF
STAN LEE and JOHN ROMITA
CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT!

AND THAT GOES FOR MICKEY DEMEO, INKER,
AND SAM ROSEN, LETTERER, AS WELL!

HAVE YOU EVER
ATTENDED AN UNDER-
WORLD SUMMIT MEET-
ING? NOT THEN COME ON,
TIGER... WE'RE JUST
IN TIME...

CREEPY WORLDS

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HEY, BIG TURK...
I DON'T GET IT!

THE KINGPIN SAID
THIS WEBHEAD WAS
DEAD...OR
SOMETHIN'!

WHAT'S HE TRYIN'
TO DO...PULL A
FAST ONE?

THE KINGPIN, EH?
I'LL HAVE TO
REMEMBER
THAT NAME!

STOW THE
QUESTIONS,
YOU GUYS!

FIRST, LET'S
POLISH OFF
THE MASKED
WISGUY!

HURRY,
WILLYA?
CAN'T HOLD
'IM!



CORRECTION,
BUTTERBALL!
I THOUGHT I
WAS HOLDING
YOU!

FORGET IT, FREAK!
IT AIN'T GONNA MATTER
NO MORE!

ONCE I LETCHA
HAVE ONE SO-LO
HARTE CHOP,
IT'LL BE ALL
OVER!

SO JUST
HOLD THAT
POSE!
MISTER...
HERE IT
COMES!



HAN! THE FAMOUS
SPIDER-MAN!! BIG
DEAL!

HE'LL NEVER WANNA
TANGLE WITH BIG
TURK AGAIN...THAT'S
FOR SURE!

I DON'T
GET IT! I
THOUGHT HE
WAS A DOZEN
TIMES STRONGER
THAN ANY ORDINARY
JOE!

HOW COME YA
KNOCKED 'IM OUT
WITH ONE BLOW?

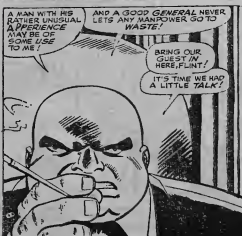


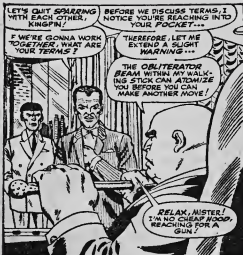
HE DIDN'T,
CHARLIE!

I HAD A KING-SPEED /TOW BACK THERE,
AND I FIGURED IF I WAITED LONG ENOUGH,
ONE OF YOU PUSSYCATS WOULD SCRATCH
IT FOR ME!

BLAM!













AND, IT'S TIME WE WERE BRACING
FOR NEW ACTION...!

WHY IS MY
SPIDEY
SENSE
TINGLING?
ALL I SEE
ARE FOUR
ALIEN... ENTER-
ING THAT
SWANKY
PRIVATE
CLUB...!

BUT, I BETTER
PARK MY BIKE AND GET
INTO COSTUME...
JUST IN CASE!



NOTHING SEEMS TO BE
WRONG! AND YET...



I CAN'T
AFFORD TO
TAKE ANY
CHANCES!
MY LITTLE
BUILT-IN
BUZZER
HASN'T EVER
FAILED ME
YET!

UH OH!
I WAS
RIGHT!

WHILE NOBODY ELSE IS
NOTICING, THOSE FOUR
GOONS HAVE THE
MANAGER OFF IN
A CORNER...

AND I CAN TELL...
EVEN FROM HERE...
THAT THEY'RE ABOUT
TO LEAN ON HIM!

ONE
OF 'EM IS
PULLING A
GUN!

NO TIME TO
FIND AN
OPEN WINDOW...
I'VE GOTTA
MOVE...!!



THE KINGPIN
DON'T LIKE
JOES WHO
GIVE US ANY
TROUBLE,
SEE??

THEN THE KINGPIN IS GONNA BE
REAL SANEYED AT YOUR FRIENDLY
NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN,
GENTS!

HEADS UP,
YOU GUYS! IT'S
THE WALL-
CRAWLER
AGAIN!



YOU OUGHTTA BE
ASHAMED OF
YOURSELVES!

NOT ONLY DO YOU
TRY TO HIJACK ONE
OF THE CLASSIEST
PLACES IN TOWN...

-- BUT YOU
DIDN'T EVEN
PHONE AHEAD
TO MAKE A
RESERVATION!

UHH!!

OOFF!

TSK TSK! IS
HOW SAUCHE
CAN YOU BE?

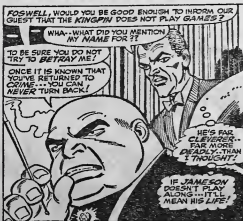
LOOK
OUT!!





















NEXT:

TO DIE A HERO!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!™

"TO DIE A HERO!"







THEY'RE ALL SEALED IN, BOSS!

THE WATER'S POURIN' IN FULL FORCE! IT SHOULDN'T TAKE MOREN FIVE MINUTES!

SPARE ME THE BORING DETAILS, FLINT!

JUST LET ME KNOW WHEN THE CHARGE IS COMPLETELY ENDED!



SPIDER-MAN!! FOR THE LUNNA--WINA--??!

HE'S WACKING UP! HE'S BEGINNING TO STAR!

THE GAS MUST BE FINALLY WEARING OFF!

UNNN!!



IRON BANDS-- AROUND MY WRISTS!

WATER...GETTING AHEAD BY THE SECOND!

THAT MEANS-- THE KINGPIN...IS TRYING TO--FINISH US!



WE DON'T NEED A BLASTED HUNTLEY-BRINGLEY REPORT!!

NOW THAT YOU'RE AWAKE...GET US OUT OF HERE!



HOW ABOUT GIVING YOUR GUNS A REST WHILE I TRY?



THESE BANDS AREN'T TOO OPENING! THE KINGPIN MUST FIGURE THEY WON'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE!

THAT'S RIGHT! EVEN IF YOU DO GET FREE-- THEN WHAT?

EVEN YOU CAN'T BREATHE FOR LONG UNDER WATER!



IF YOU'LL CLAM UP FOR A FEW MINUTES, MAYBE NEITHER OF US WILL HAVE TO!

DON'T TRY TO KID ME, WEB HEAD!! WE'RE DONE FOR-- AND YOU KNOW IT!



OF ALL THE PEOPLE TO SPEND MY LAST FEW MINUTES ON EARTH WITH-- IT HADTA BE-- HEY!!

I DID IT! MY HANDS ARE FREE NOW!

BIG DEAL! WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO--BREATHE THROUGH YOUR FINGERS?





WHILE OUTSIDE THE SEALED CHAMBER...

IT'S ALL
FILLED
KINGPIN!

THEY'RE
GONERS
BY NOW!

NATURALLY!
THAT WAS MY
INTENTION!



WAIT ANOTHER
THIRTY SECONDS--
TO BE SURE!

THEN,
PLAIN
THE ROOM
AND DESPARE
OF THEM!

BE SURE YOU TIDY
UP WHEN YOU'RE
FINISHED! I
DETEST SLOPPY
WORK!

DON'T WORRY--
YOU CAN COUNT
ON US!



EXACTLY THIRTY SECONDS LATER...

FLINT SAID
WE SHOULD--
HEY!! WHAT'S
THAT??

I DON'T GET IT!!
--LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE
KINDA BIG GOO-GOON--
WITH SOMEONE INSIDE!

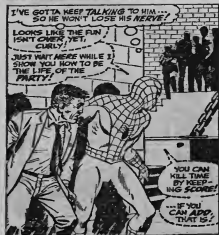


AWWW--YOU
NOTICED!!

AND I WANTED IT TO BE
A SURPRISE!















SPIDER-MAN!
HE'S STILL ALIVE!
BUT... NOW?

SO! IT SEEMS I
UNDERESTIMATED
YOU ONCE MORE!

BUT THE KINGPIN
NEVER MAKES
THE SAME
MISTAKE TWICE!

STAND ASIDE,
FOSWELL! I'LL
DEAL WITH YOU
LATER!

YOU'LL
DO ANY OF
YOUR FUTURE
DEALING FROM
BEHIND BARS,
MISTER!



BUT, KNOWING HOW YOU WORRY ABOUT SPIDEY IN MOMENTS
LIKE THIS, LET'S BREAK THE TENSION FOR A FEW SECONDS
AS WE SWITCH OUR SCENE TO THE DOORWAY OF THE
SILVER SPOON, WHERE AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR IS JUST
ENTERING ---

FLASH!! YOU'RE BACK! HEY! HOW
ABOUT THAT?
WHO'S NERDIN' THE
WAR FOR YOU,
SOLDIER?

WESTMORELAND
PROMISED TO KEEP AN
EYE ON THINGS WHILE
I'M GONE!



GOOD TO
SEE YOU
AGAIN,
FLASHEROO!

YEAH... BUT
GORGEOUS
GWENDOLYNE
IS OVER HERE!

HOW DO
I LOOK,
DREAM
STUFF?

IF YOU
LOOKED
ANY BETTER,
YOU'D BE
OFF-LIMITS!

HEY... I'M
STANDIN' OVER
HERE!

BUT WE THOUGHT YOU'D
BE A COLONEL BY NOW!



SHHH! DON'T BREATHE A WORD
OF IT!
I'M REALLY A THREE-
STAR GENERAL... BUT I DRESS
THIS WAY 'CAUSE I'M MODEST!

IT'S THOSE SHY-
NESS LESSONS
YOU TOOK FROM
MARY JANE!



SAY! SPEAKING OF M.J., WHERE'S
SHE GOING? AND WHAT ABOUT OL'
HARRY'S ROLICKIN' ROOMMATE?

US CONQUERING HEROES
EXPECT A FULL TURNOUT WHEN
WE COME WALTZIN' HOME ON
FURLOUGH!



WE HAVEN'T
SEEN PETE
FOR A WHILE!

SHE'S STILL DATING
PUNY PARKER?

MAYBE HE'S
OUT WITH M.J.!

I DIDN'T KNOW
THINGS WERE
THAT DESPERATE
ON THE HOME
FRONT!

C'MON
FLASH...
CLUE US
IN ON
REAL
LIFE!



THERE'S NOT MUCH TO TELL, KIDDING!

YOU MUSTA HEARD HOW THE VIET CONG WANTED TO SUE FOR PEACE AS SOON AS THEY FOUND OUT I WAS THERE!

OL' LYNDON ASKED ME WHAT TO DO, BUT I DECIDED HE OUGHTTA WORK IT OUT FOR HIMSELF!
YOU LET HIM DO IT THE HARD WAY, EH SOLDIER?

DID IT TAKE THE ARMY LONG TO TEACH YOU HUMILITY, FLASH?



FLASH? IS THAT REALLY FEARLESS FLASH?

MARY JANE! YOU HEARD I WAS HERE SO YOU STITCHED PARKER, EH?

GOOD HEAVENS! I THOUGHT ROCK HUDSON HAD RUINED HIS NAME!

GOOD THINKING, PRETTY GIRL!



DITTO! WHAT I HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN HIM FOR AGES!

ANYW, YOU PROBABLY SAY THE SAME THING TO ALL THE HANDSOME, GLAMOROUS WAR HEROES YOU MEET!

SEAY! ARMY LIFE MUST AGREE WITH YOU! DON'T AIM THOSE EYES AT ME THAT WAY... THEY MIGHT BE LOADED!



LET'S FACE IT, GROUP... THIS CALLS FOR A KING-SIZE PARTY!

PARKER? YOU GOTTA BE KIDDIN'!

AS SOON AS PETE GETS HERE, WE'LL ARRANGE THE ZINGIEST WING-DING IN TOWN!

HE CAN EMPTY A ROOM JUST BY ENTERING IT!

C'WON, FLASH... PETE'S A GOOD EGG, AND YOU KNOW IT!

AH HA! GWEN BRAIN-WASHED YOU, TOO!



BUT, AT THIS VERY MOMENT, THE LAST THING ON PETER PARKER'S MIND IS WHETHER OR NOT FLASH THOMPSON THINKS HE'S A GOOD EGG.

YOU WON'T GET A CHANCE TO HIT ME WITH THAT SLEEP GAS OF YOURS AGAIN!

NOT IF I CLOB YOUR STICK PIN WITH A GLOB OF WEB FLUID!

HE GRABBED MY WRISTS! HIS HANDS ARE LIKE LIVING WREDS!

I WON'T NEED ANY SLEEP GAS THIS TIME!

I'LL FINISH YOU OFF FOR GOOD... WITH MY OWN BARE HANDS!







HOW!! HE
BOUNCED
BACK
UP LIKE A
BASKET
BALL!!

ONLY A FOOL
CONTINUES TO
FIGHT WHEN IT'S
WISER TO FLEE
AND FORMULATE
A NEW SET OF
PLANS!

AND THE
KING-
PIN IS
NO FOOL!

THERE'S
SOME
SORT OF
HIDDEN
ESCAPE
HATCH
BEHIND
THAT
CURTAIN!



BUT... WHY
WOULD HE
RUN...
BEFORE
HE'S
BEATEN?

NO MATTER
WHAT ELSE I
MAY THINK OF
HIM... THAT BOOZ
IS NO COWARD!

SO THAT'S HIS ACE
IN THE HOLE... A MAN-
SIZED PNEUMATIC
TUBE... FOR INSTANT
ESCAPES!



HE'S HEADING
STRAIGHT
DOWN,
TOWARDS...

HE SUDDENLY
REALIZED IF I
FREED MYSELF
FROM THE DUNGEON,
JAMESON MIGHT
BE FREE, TOO!

AND WITH JOELY
JONAH ON THE
LOOSE... HE
CAN'T AFFORD TO
WAIT AROUND
FOR THE POLICE!

BUT... HOW
CAN I BE SURE
JAMESON DID
ESCAPE??

WHAT IF HE'S
STILL DOWN
THERE... AND THE
KINGPIN KILLS
HIM??



ONLY ONE
WAY TO
FIND
OUT!

I'VE GOTTA FORCE
THIS THING OPEN,
AND CRAWL DOWN THE
TUBE AFTER HIM!



BUT THEN, SUDDENLY...

SHOOH!

UNHHH!



LOOKS LIKE THE KINGPIN THOUGHT
OF EVERYTHING!

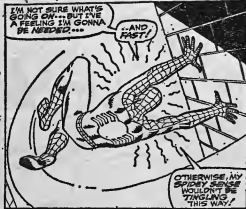
THE TUBE WAS
BOOBY-TRAPPED!

IF NOT FOR
MY SPIDER-
STRENGTH, THAT
GAS-BLAST
MIGHT HAVE
FINISHED
ME!

BUT I CAN'T JUST
SIT HERE AND SULK!!
I'VE GOTTA DO
SOMETHING!

YEAH...
LIKE
WHAT?!!







EPILOGUE...



STILL NO SIGN OF THE KINGPIN!
HE MUST HAVE MADE
GOOD HIS ESCAPE...
FOR NOW!

THERE'S
RED LEE'S,
RUNNING THE
SCENE AHEAD OF THE OTHER
NEWSMEN.

HE'LL PROBABLY
MAKE A GOOD
REPLACEMENT
FOR POOR FOSWELL!

OF
COURSE
I'M OKAY!

I FOUND OUT
WHO'S BEHIND
THE CITY'S NEW
CRIME WAVE!

IT'S AN OVERSIZED
ODDBALL CALLED
THE KINGPIN!

BUT WHO'S
THAT... ON
THE STRETCHER?



IT'S FOSWELL! HE
WAS MURDERED
TRYING TO SAVE ME!

I WANT YOU TO DO A
FRONT PAGE STORY
ABOUT HIM, LEE'S! GIVE
HIM ALL THE GLORY... ALL
THE GLORY HE NEVER HAD
WHILE HE
LIVED!

AND THEN... I'LL WRITE
ANOTHER BLAST AGAINST
SPIDER-MAN!!

HE'S MORE OF A
MENACE THAN EVER!

...BECAUSE
YOU NEVER KNOW
WHAT HE'S
UP TO.



THAT
SHOCK
IT!!

I WOULDN'T LIFT A FINGER
NEXT TIME TO HELP THAT
MISANTHROPIC HEAT-
HEAD... NO MATTER
WHAT!

I'M THROUGH
BEING A FELL
GUY FOR
EVERYONE
ELSE!

I'VE HAD IT...
IN SPIDERS!



AWWWW... WHO
AM I KIDPIN'?

I'D DO THE SAME THING ALL
OVER AGAIN IF I HAD TO...
AND I KNOW IT!

IN MY OWN WAY, I'M
PROBABLY A LOT LIKE
JAMESON!

HE'S A COMPULSIVE
CRANK... AND I'M
A COMPULSIVE
DO-GOODER!

THE ONLY
THING IS... HE
MAKES A LOT MORE
DOUGH AT IT THAN
I DO!

THERE'S PROBABLY
A MODAL HIDDEN AWAY
IN ALL THIS... BUT I'M
TOO POOPED TO WORRY
ABOUT IT!

I'M GONNA
HEAD BACK
TO MY PAD
AND SLEEP
FOR A WEEK!

THE
END

Nelson's Nightmare!

WE HAVE YOU NOW, NELSON!

NO! GO AWAY!

THERE'S NO ESCAPE! NONE AT ALL!



IT WAS DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN, AND YET IT HAPPENED! FIRST THE STRANGE AND FORBIDDING LANDSCAPE, AND THEN THE FACES OF THE CROWD... THEIR HANDS OUTSTRETCHED, THEIR SULLEN EYES SMOLDERING WITH ANGER...

DICK AYERS L-183

YOU REMEMBER ME, DON'T YOU, NELSON? YOU CAUSED MY FINANCIAL RUIN!

DON'T TOUCH ME! GO AWAY!

BUT IN THE NEXT INSTANT, NELSON WAS AWAKE, HIS CRIES REVERBERATING THROUGH THE SILENT, SLEEPING HOUSE...

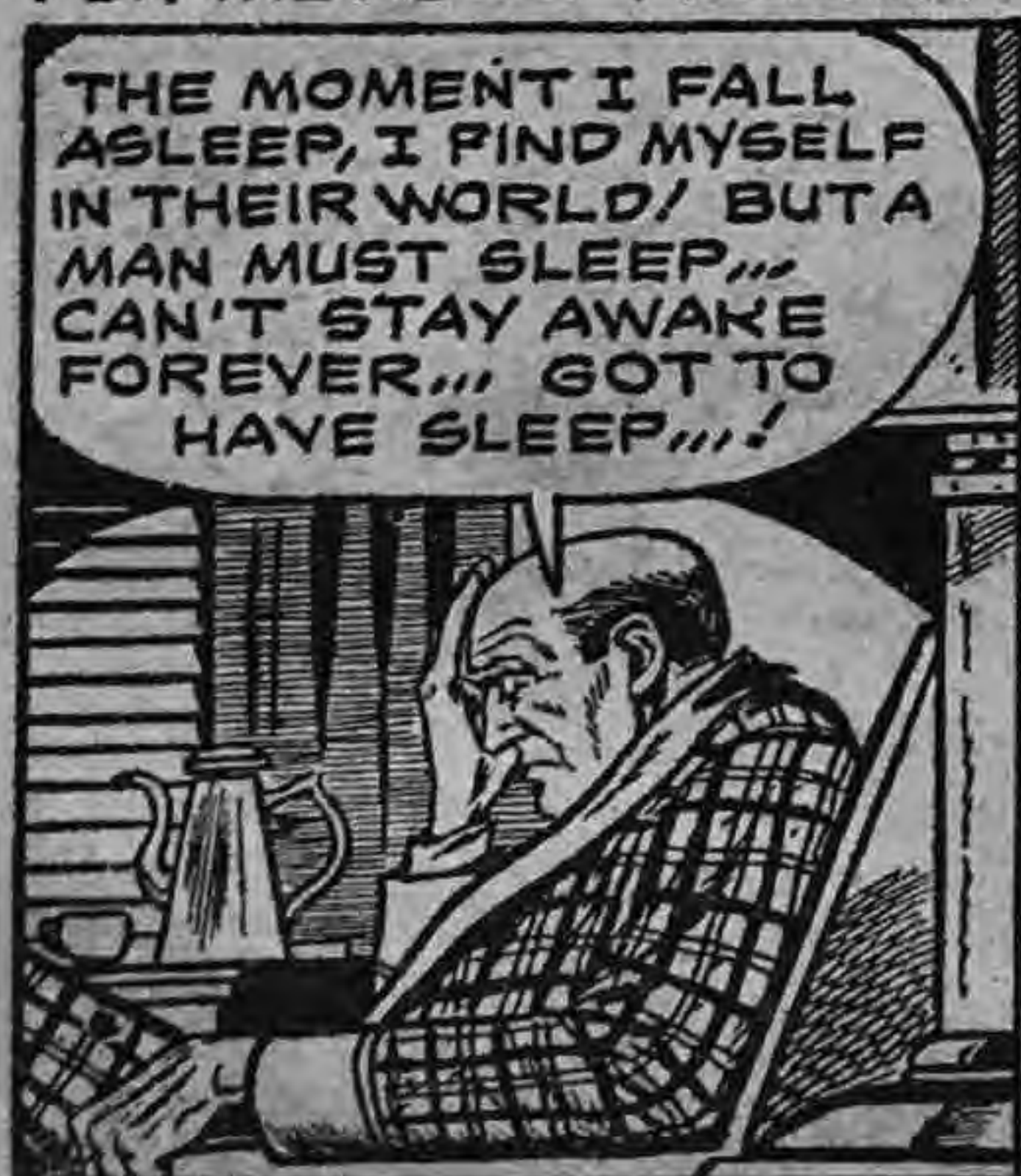
HELP! PETERS... HELP!





THE WEEKS DRAGGED ON, NERVE-SHATTERING WEEKS FOR THE AGING TYCOON...

AND AS SLEEP CLOSED IN, THE FAMILIAR NIGHTMARE WOULD RETURN...



**SCARCELY HAD THESE WORDS BEEN
UTTERED WHEN...**



**IN A BLINDING FLASH, THE
SCENE BLOTTED OUT!
SLOWLY, HIS EYES FOCUSED
ON HIS OUTSTRETCHED ARMS...**

**THE SLEEVES OF MY JACKET...
TORN WHERE THEY GRABBED
ME! IT'S TRUE! THEY ARE
THERE... WAITING FOR ME!**



**BUT I AM NOT
WITHOUT SOME
PROTECTION!
I ALWAYS AWAKE AT
THE CRUCIAL
MOMENT... AND WHEN
I DO, I ESCAPE FROM
THEIR WORLD AND
THEIR CLUTCHING
HANDS!**



**I CAN AVOID THEIR
REVENGE! I WILL NOT
BE INTIMIDATED! I
WILL NO LONGER BE
AFRAID!**



WITH THIS NEW ATTITUDE, A GROWING CONVICTION THAT HIS TORMENTORS COULD NOT QUITE REACH HIM, CONFIDENCE SLOWLY RETURNED...

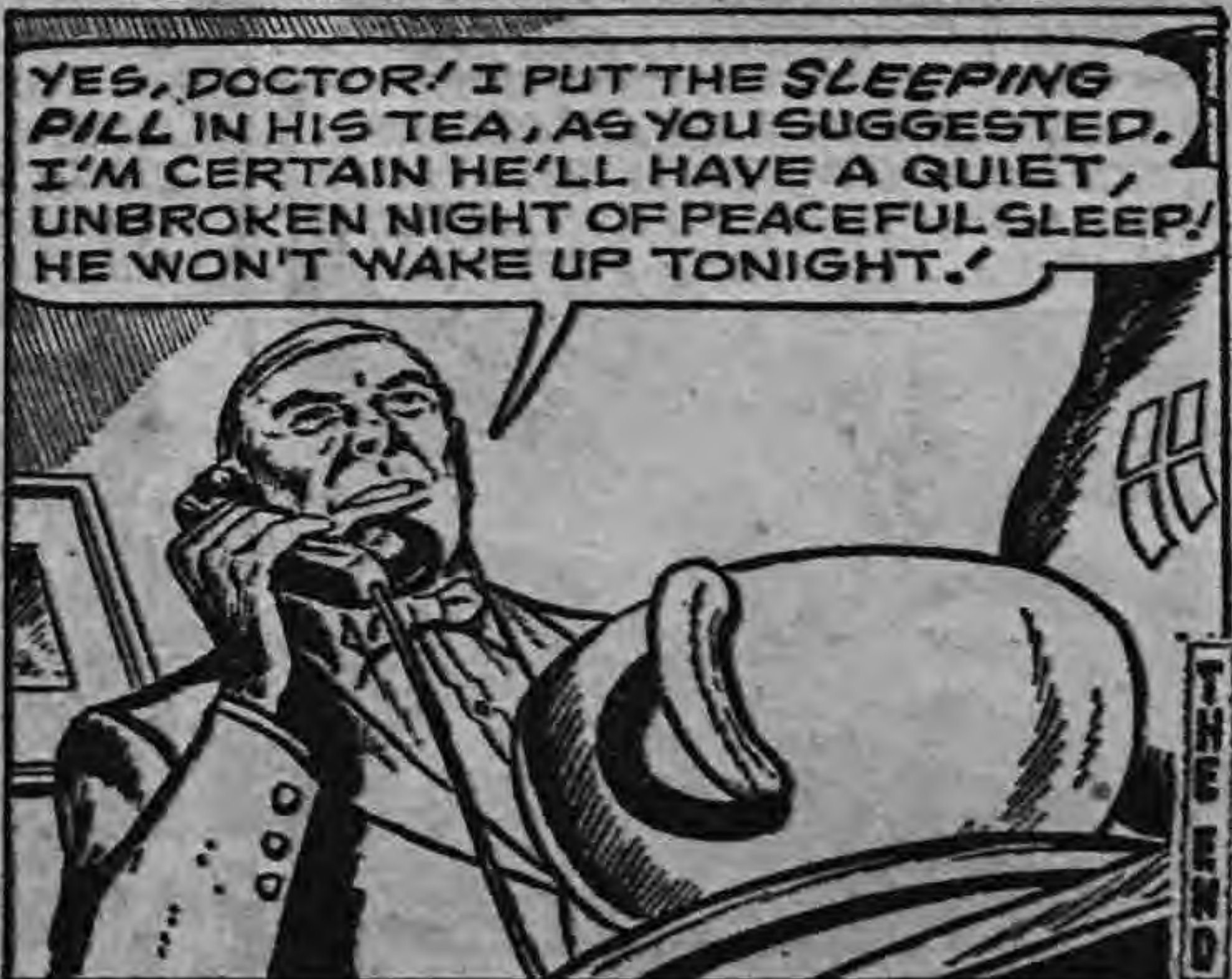
I'M GETTING SLEEPY... BUT I'M NOT AFRAID! THEY REALLY CAN'T GET ME... I CAN ALWAYS ESCAPE BY WAKING UP! GETTING SLEEPY... SO SLEEPY...

SLEEP DROPPED LIKE A BLACK VEIL! THE FOG SWIRLED IN, THE FAMILIAR ACCUSATORY VOICES BEATING AGAINST HIS EARS LIKE A CHORUS OF DOOM...



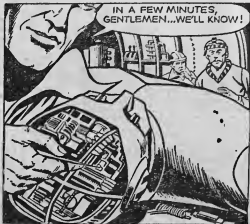
BUT THE HANDS HELD FAST, PULLING HIM DOWN...

NO ONE HEARD HIS DESPERATE CRIES! NOT EVEN PETERS, WHO SPOKE SOFTLY ON THE DOWNSTAIRS PHONE...



I AM ROBOT

THIS IS A STORY OF A MAN'S STRIVING, OF HIS SEARCH FOR PERFECTION AND HIS STRUGGLE TO ATTAIN IT. IN ME REPOSED HIS FUTURE HOPE, A DREAM STILL TO BE FULFILLED. I WAS THAT FUTURE. I WAS THAT HOPE. **I AM ROBOT!**



THE AIR JETS WORKED TO PERFECTION. IN A MATTER OF SECONDS MY MOLTEN STATE HAD CHANGED TO ONE OF RIGID STRENGTH. WITH FINAL PRECISION MY DELICATE INSTRUMENTS WERE BEING TUNED TO "LIFE"...



"IN THIS, THE YEAR 2468 I WAS NOT THE FIRST ROBOT. THERE HAD BEEN COUNTLESS THOUSANDS BEFORE ME, BUT I WAS DIFFERENT. MY CAPABILITIES WERE NOT TO BE LIMITED TO MERELY MOVEMENT. I WAS ALSO ENDOWED WITH SPEECH AND THE ABILITY TO THINK!"

"TENS OF THOUSANDS OF TINY PARTS WHIRLED INTO ACTION AS MY COMPACT NUCLEAR REACTOR PUMPED AN ELECTRICAL FLOW THROUGH MY MAZE OF COMPLICATED CIRCUITS..."



"WE'LL START WITH THIS REPLICA OF A SIX-MONTH HUMAN! AS YOU NOTICE IT IS MADE OF **STRYTUM**, ONE OF THE MOST FRAGILE MATERIALS EVER DEVELOPED, IF THE ROBOT SHOULD HANDLE THIS WITHOUT BREAKING IT, WOULD YOU SAY IT HAD DEXTERITY?"



"AT THORNE'S COMMAND I RAISED THE TINY OBJECT SLOWLY MY FINGERS ENCIRCLED THE FRAGILE FORM, STOPPING WITHIN A HAIR'S BREADTH OF THE CRITICAL DISTANCE..."



"AT THORNE'S COMMAND I OBEYED AGAIN..."



"WE'RE IMPRESSED, THORNE! YOUR ROBOT SHOWS TREMENDOUS POTENTIALS! TRAINED TO DO DELICATE, SKILLED OPERATIONS THEY COULD RELEASE MANY MEN FOR THE IMPORTANT FIELD OF RESEARCH... BUT WE STILL WANT FURTHER PROOF!"



"THE ROBOT WILL SPEND SIX MONTHS IN MY HOME! HE WILL LIVE WITH MY FAMILY AND I WILL ENTRUST MY INFANT SON IN HIS CARE! IF HE FULFILLS THIS TRUST, WILL YOU HAVE YOUR PROOF?"



"SO THE TEST BEGAN AND I WENT TO LIVE IN THE HOME OF THE MAN WHO HAD DESIGNED ME. DESPITE MY NON-HUMAN NATURE I FELT A DEEP AWARENESS TO THE TRUST THAT HAD BEEN PLACED IN ME... A TRUST I DARED NOT FAIL..."

YES, THORNE, HE IS GENTLE...
PERHAPS EVEN MORE THAN I... BUT I STILL HAVE MY FEARS!
AND I TELL YOU THEY'RE GROUNDLESS.



"TO BE ADDRESSED DIRECTLY WAS A SOURCE OF GREAT PLEASURE, AND THOUGH I RATHER DESPISED THE MECHANICAL TONES IN WHICH I HAD TO GRIND OUT MY REPLIES, I WAS GREATLY HONORED TO ASSOCIATE WITH HUMANS ON WHAT WAS THEIR OWN LEVEL..."

I LOVE THE LITTLE ONE...THORNE!
I LOVE... ALL OF YOU!

SEE! NOW AREN'T YOU ASHAMED?



"THE MONTHS SLIPPED BY, AND THOUGH I KNEW THAT I HAD THE CONFIDENCE OF THORNE I KNEW THAT IT WASN'T SHARED BY HIS WIFE. ALMOST CONTINUALLY I FELT HER EYES UPON ME..."

"AND YET I TRIED, TRIED SO DESPERATELY! THE SLIGHTEST SOUND, THE SMALLEST DISTURBANCE NEVER ESCAPED MY DELICATE INSTRUMENTS. WHENEVER THE NEED AROSE I WAS THERE..."



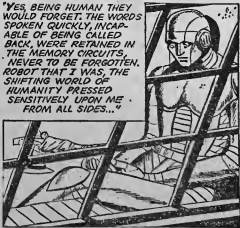
"AND I WAS ALWAYS THERE FIRST..."

SEE, WE'RE LAST AS USUAL! HE MUST HAVE HAD A BAD DREAM, BUT HE'S IN FINE HANDS NOW!

IS HE, THORNE? IS HE REALLY?



"YES, BEING HUMAN THEY WOULD FORGET. THE WORDS SPOKEN QUICKLY, INCAPABLE OF BEING CALLED BACK, WERE RETAINED IN THE MEMORY CIRCUITS, NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN. ROBOT THAT I WAS, THE SHIFTING WORLD OF HUMANITY PRESSED SENSITIVELY UPON ME FROM ALL SIDES..."



"ONE DAY, NOT LONG AFTERWARDS, THORNE SPOKE TO ME, HIS WORDS, CAREFULLY CHOSEN, REGISTERED AGAINST MY AUDITORY CIRCUIT IN A TONE THAT WAS DIFFERENT THAN BEFORE..."

THEN YOU UNDERSTAND! YOU WILL BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL! IT IS VERY IMPORTANT!

YES! I UNDERSTAND...I SHALL... BE CAREFUL!



DO YOU REALLY THINK WE SHOULD DO THIS, THORNE... LEAVE THEM ALONE TOGETHER? IS IT TOO RISKY?

NO RISK AT ALL! HE IS INFALLIBLE! IT IS A MOST IMPORTANT TEST! UNLESS THE ROBOT CAN BE TRUSTED ALONE HIS USEFULNESS TO MANKIND WOULD BE INSIGNIFICANT!



LOOK! NEW SHIP!



THEY WERE ALIENS, CREATURES OF ANOTHER WORLD. THE INTRICATE WARNING DEVICES EMBEDDED WITHIN MY MECHANICAL BRAIN FLASHED DANGER. I SPED FORWARD..."

DESTROY IT KARA! I HAVE THE EARTHLING!

IT DOESN'T STOP! IT DOESN'T DIS-INTEGRATE!



"AGAIN AND AGAIN THE RAY SWEEPED OVER ME. STRANGE FLUTTERINGS PASSED OVER THE METAL SKIN AS THE PLATING STRAINED AND BUCKLED UNDER THE INTENSE HEAT. MY NORMAL SWIFT RESPONSES WERE SLOWING DOWN BUT I PRESSED ON..."

IT'S INDESTRUCTIBLE, KARA! LEAVE THE EARTHLING...BACK TO THE SHIP!



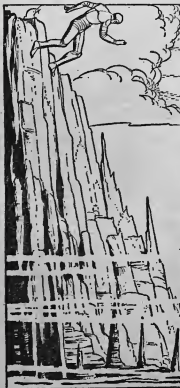
"THEY FLED! I COULD HEAR THE CLANG WHEN THEY SLAMMED THE DOOR OF THEIR CRAFT. AS I STAGGERED FORWARD THEY SOARED INTO THE AIR..."

WE WERE TO BRING AN EARTHLING BACK TO OUR GALAXY! WE HAVE FAILED!

WE HAVE NOT FAILED! WHAT USE WOULD THE EARTHLING BE? THEY HAVE DEVELOPED A ROBOT CAPABLE OF WITHSTANDING OUR RAY AND TOTALLY DEVOTED TO THEIR LIVING MASTERS! ANY PLAN TO INVADE THIS PLANET MUST NOW BE CANCELLED!



"SAFETY RELAYS CLICKED, CHATTERED, FELL SILENT. THE LITTLE MOTIVATION LEFT IN ME SENT ME FORWARD. THE DELICATE BALANCES WERE NO LONGER FUNCTIONING. I STAGGERED ON, AND ON, AND..."



"THE FLOW OF ELECTRONS HAD ALMOST EBBED WHEN THORNE RETURNED. I COULD HEAR HIS VOICE, BUT MY RESPONSE CIRCUITS HAD LONG SINCE CEASED TO OPERATE..."

WHAT HAPPENED?
SPEAK! WHAT
WENT WRONG?



STOP IT, THORNE! STOP
ADDRESSING IT AS THOUGH
IT WERE ALIVE! CAN'T YOU
SEE WHAT HAPPENED?
HAVEN'T YOU ENOUGH
PROOF?



IT WENT BESERK... BROKE DOWN
... PLUNGED INTO THE RAVINE!
AND WHAT IF YOUR SON WAS
WITH HIM! THINK, THORNE!
IS THIS TO BE
TRUSTED?

I AM
THINKING...
I AM...



YES, YOU'RE RIGHT! IT IS NOT
TO BE TRUSTED! THE ROBOT WAS
INSTRUCTED TO LOOK AFTER
OUR SON, AND IT FAILED! THAT
IS THE IRREVOCABLE FACT!
THAT WE CANNOT EVADE...

I WILL REPORT TO THE COUNCIL
TOMORROW! I WILL TELL THEM
THE ROBOT IS NOT TO BE PUT
INTO PRODUCTION... THAT I
HAVE **FAILED!**



A ROBOT CANNOT DIE. SOON-
ER OR LATER HIS CIRCUITS WILL
REPAIR THEMSELVES...

YOU DIDN'T
FAIL... YOU DIDN'T
FAIL... YOU
DIDN'T...



"I TRIED TO REACH HIM, EVEN BEFORE THE FINAL
PULSATIONS FLICKERED OUT... BUT I KNEW I'D HAVE AN-
OTHER CHANCE... AND THEN I'D MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND..."

THE LITTLE LOST PLANET

IN INDIA, A HUGE, ANCIENT IDOL, ONCE DEDICATED TO A PAGAN GOD, NOW WEAKENED BY THE CENTURIES, CRACKS AND TOPPLES OVER--BUT REMAINS SUSPENDED-- IN MID-AIR...



SUSPENDED BY THE FORCE OF A TINY PLANET THAT HAS MYSTERIOUSLY APPEARED OUT OF THE SKY...



AAAIEEE!!
WE WILL BE
CRUSHED!
FLEE--

IT DOES NOT
FALL--IT STAYS
IN THE AIR!!

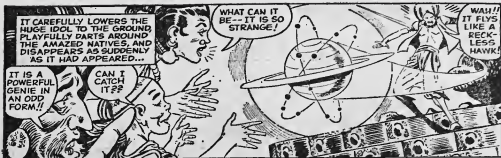
LOOK!
THERE!!
FAR UP IN
THE SKY,
A TINY
BALL!!

THE GODS
ARE ANGRY
AND PUNISH
US!

IT
DOES
NOT
DROP!

IT
COMES
DOWN
SLOWLY!





IN THE DAYS FOLLOWING, THE LITTLE PLANET MAKES REPEATED APPEARANCES OVER THE EARTH, AND WITH EACH APPEARANCE, IT IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR AVERTING A GREAT DISASTER...



MEANWHILE, ASTRONOMERS ALL AROUND THE EARTH HAVE NOTICED A GROWING DISTURBANCE DEEP IN THE UNIVERSE...

...A STRANGE DISTURBANCE THAT GROWS AND SPREADS -- EVEN TO OUR GALAXY, AND ITS EFFECTS ARE STARTLING...

THE SUN BECOMES A GREEN FLAMING BALL...

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!

WE DARE NOT EVEN GUESS AT HOW IT WILL AFFECT THE PEOPLE ON EARTH!

WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED IT?

WHAT CAN IT MEAN??

IT COULD MEAN THE END OF OUR WORLD!

...THE MOON IS BATHED IN ODD PATTERNS OF WEIRD REFLECTED LIGHT...

IT WAS NORMAL JUST A MINUTE AGO!!

...AND EARTH IS COATED WITH AN UNUSUAL GLOW...

THE PATTERNS ARE CONSTANTLY CHANGING!

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT?

THE LITTLE PLANET-- TEMPORARILY FORGOTTEN, STARTS TO BEAM WARMINGLY...

THIS IS TOO FANTASTIC EVEN FOR A NIGHT-MARE!!

...FROM THE CENTER OF THE
DISTURBANCE -- GREAT FORCE
WAVES ARE SENT OUT --
SEARCHING -- PROBING...

THROUGHOUT THE
WHOLE UNIVERSE
THEY TRAVEL, MOVING
SWIFTLY AND SILENTLY!

...YET NOTHING IS
MISSED AS THEY SPEED
ONWARD! FOR THEM,
THERE WILL BE NO
STOPPING -- NO REST...

...UNTIL THEY FIND WHAT THEY SEEK! ON THE
PLANET CALLED EARTH, THE SEARCH IS
FINALLY ENDED... IT HAS BEEN FOUND!

WONDER WHAT'S
GOING ON UP
THERE?

I'D HATE
TO EVEN
TRY TO
GUESS

SEEMS TO BE
SOME KIND OF
LIGHTS MOVING
AROUND --

WHAT'S
THAT?

LOOK!!
IT'S THE
LITTLE
PLANET!

...A SOFT WARM LIGHT BEAMS FORTH, TO GUIDE
THE LITTLE LOST PLANET HOME -- HOME TO ITS
MOTHER GALAXY AND FAMILY OF PLANETS AND STARS...

...AND ON EARTH, THE MANY WHO
HAD WITNESSED WHAT TOOK PLACE,
WONDERED...

DO YOU
THINK WE'LL
EVER SEE
IT AGAIN?

WHO CAN SAY?
BUT I KNOW IT
WILL BE MISSED

AN AWFUL
LOT OF
PEOPLE
OWE THEIR
HAPPINESS
AND LIVES
TO IT!

AMAZING! IT WAS
ACTUALLY A LITTLE
LOST PLANET... FINALLY
FOUND AND RETURNED
TO ITS OWN GALAXY BY
ITS MOTHER PLANET!
BUT EARTH WILL NEVER
EVER FORGET IT!!!

THE END

IT WAS AN AGE OF INTERGALACTIC SPACE TRAVEL... BUT IT WAS ALSO AN AGE OF SPACE PIRACY! VICIOUS BANDS OF ROBBERS ROAMED THE UNIVERSE - PLUNDERING UNSUSPECTING PLANETS! AND ROCKET CARAVANS! I WAS THE HEAD OF ONE SUCH BAND! MY NAME IS SANDOR, AND...

THEY CALL ME... SPACE PIRATE

WE SURE CAME AT THE RIGHT TIME! THERE ISN'T A SOLDIER HERE TO DEFEND THIS PLANET!

IT'S JUST LIKE SANDOR SAID IT WOULD BE! IT'S 'COSMIC ARMISTICE DAY!' THEREFORE ALL THE TROOPS HAVE GONE TO JOIN THE BIG INTERSTELLAR PARADE THEY'RE HOLDING!

MAN! THE BOSS CERTAINLY FIGURES ALL THE ANGLES! THAT'S WHY WE'RE THE MOST SUCCESSFUL BAND OF PIRATES IN THE UNIVERSE!

ALL RIGHT, MEN... START LOOTING THIS PLACE! WE'LL HAVE A HAUL THAT'S WORTH A FORTUNE BEFORE THIS DAY'S WORK IS DONE!

AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT THESE INHABITANTS! WITHOUT THEIR ARMY, THEY'RE POWERLESS TO STOP US! HA HA HA!



I HAD BEEN A SPACE PIRATE FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS... EVER SINCE 3400 A.D.! OUR RAIDS FOR PLUNDER WERE SWIFT, RUTHLESS, AND WELL-PLANNED IN ADVANCE..

THERE'S THE CARAVAN, BOSS! AND LIKE YOU FIGURED... IT HAS NO MILITARY ESCORT!

I KNEW THE ESCORT WOULD LEAVE THEM WHEN THEY PASSED GALAXY 47! THEY NEVER SUSPECTED WE'D BE WAITING THIS FAR OUT TO WAYLAY THEM!

PREPARE TO ATTACK!



WE ADJUSTED OUR SPACE SUITS FOR THE SPATIAL ENVIRONS... AND SLOWLY MADE OUR WAY TO THE CARAVAN BELOW...



WHEN WE HAD THOROUGHLY LOOTED THE CARAVAN, WE ASCENDED TO OUR OWN SHIPS...

NOW TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE SPACE POLICE ARRIVE!

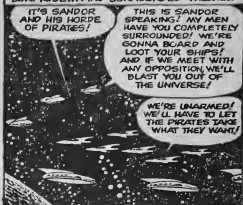


WE TOOK THE CARAVAN COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE... AND SURROUNDED THEM...

IT'S SANDOR AND HIS HORDE OF PIRATES!

THIS IS SANDOR SPEAKING! MY MEN HAVE YOU COMPLETELY SURROUNDED! WE'RE GONNA BOARD AND LOOT YOUR SHIPS! AND IF WE MEET WITH ANY OPPOSITION, WE'LL BLAST YOU OUT OF THE UNIVERSE!

WE'RE UNARMED! WE'LL HAVE TO LET THE PIRATES TAKE WHAT THEY WANT!



WE ENTERED THEIR SHIPS... MEETING NO RESISTANCE...

I FOUND THE DOUGH, BOSS... A FORTUNE IN INTERPLANETARY CURRENCY!

AND HERE'S SOME URANIUM THAT'LL BRING US A TIDY SUM ON THE UNIVERSAL MARKET!

GOOD WORK, BOYS! TAKE YOUR TIME, AND COLLECT IT ALL! THERE'S NO ONE HERE THAT'S GONNA INTERFERE WITH US! HA HA HA!



WE HEADED FOR THE TORTUOUS SPACE AND TIME ROUTES OF THE OUTER GALAXIES...

BOSS, I GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU! THE WAY YOU FIGURED THIS JOB, IT CAME OFF PERFECT!

THAT'S 'CAUSE I THINK OF ALL THE ANGLES! TO STAY IN THIS RACKET YA GOTTA THINK OF EVERYTHING... AND OVERLOOK NOTHING!



THE PASSING WEEKS SAW THE NAME SANDOR BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH VILLAINY... AS MORE AND MORE I RAIDED AND ROBBED THE SPACE ROUTES OF THIS UNIVERSE!

HA HA! THE FOOLS ON THIS PLANET NEVER THOUGHT WE'D ATTACK 'EM TWICE IN ONE WEEK! WE CAUGHT 'EM BY SURPRISE!

THANKS FOR GIVIN' ME THIS VALUABLE STATUE, PAL! I REALLY APPRECIATE IT! KA HA HA!

THAT OUGHTA KEEP THOSE SPACE COPS OFF OUR TRAIL FOR AWHILE!

THAT BLASTED SANDOR MANEUVERED US INTO A SPACE AND TIME WARP!

BY THE TIME WE GET OUT OF THIS WARP, HE'LL BE IN ANOTHER GALAXY!

EVERYTHING WAS GOING ALONG SMOOTHLY FOR US...THO' WE DID HAVE ONE CAUSE FOR COMPLAINT...

SAY, BOSS... COULDN'T WE MOVE OUR HOME BASE TO A MORE FERTILE WORLD? THIS BARREN, PRIMITIVE PLANET IS BEGINNING TO GET ON THE MEN'S NERVES!

I DON'T LIKE IT HERE, EITHER! BUT MOST OF THE CHOICE PLANETS ARE KNOWN TO THE SPACE POLICE! IF WE INHABIT ONE OF 'EM, THEY'LL FIND US SURE!

UNLESS WE CAN FIND ANOTHER REMOTE PLANET, WE'D BETTER STAY ON THIS DESOLATE OUT-OF-THE-WAY PLACE!

BUT ONE DAY, WHILE WE WERE SEARCHING A DIFFERENT AREA OF THE UNIVERSE TO PLUNDER...

LOOK, BOSS...! UP AHEAD! AN UNCHARTED PLANET!

IT'S A WELL-VEGETATED PLANET, BOSS! AND IT'S IN A REMOTE AREA OF THE GALAXY! MAYBE WE CAN USE IT FOR OUR HOME BASE! THE SPACE COPS WOULD NEVER FIND US HERE!

THAT PLANET DOES LOOK GOOD! AND WE'VE BEEN WANTING TO CHANGE OUR BASE! BUT BEFORE I DECIDE ANYTHING, I WANTA FIGURE ALL THE ANGLES! I DON'T WANTA RUSH INTO ANYTHING TOO FAST!

LET'S GET SOME MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PLANET FIRST!

THE ANALYZERS
READ IT AS HAVING
MOSTLY A TEMPER-
ATE CLIMATE...

THE ATMOSPHERE IS
WHAT WE REQUIRE...
IT'S AN OXYGEN
WORLD!

THE PLANET'S
POPULATED...BUT
I THINK WE CAN
EASILY CONQUER
THE INHABITANTS
AND TAKE OVER
THEIR WORLD...



THE PEOPLE ON
THAT PLANET ARE
LIVING A SIMPLE
EXISTENCE! THEY
DON'T EVEN HAVE
MACHINES! THEY
LOOK PEACEFUL
AND RIPE FOR
CONQUEST!

...AND THAT MAKES
THEM HELPLESS
SUCKERS! JUST
WHAT THE DOCTOR
ORDERED! SITTING
DUCKS!



ALL RIGHT! I'VE DECIDED...
WE'LL DO IT! WE'LL MAKE
ONE ATTACK WITH OUR FULL
ROCKET SHIP FORCE... AND
HIT 'EM WITH EVERYTHING
WE GOT!

THOSE PRIMITIVE
FOOLS WON'T STAND
A CHANCE!



IN BATTLE FORMATION, WE
DOVE TOWARD THE PLANET!
CLOSER AND CLOSER WE
CAME... FINALLY, WHEN WE
WERE WITHIN RANGE, I
GAVE THE ORDER...

OPEN FIRE!



AND THEN THE TROUBLE STARTED!

THE GUNS!
THEY WON'T
SHOOT!

I CAN'T RELEASE
THE ALPHA-BOMBS!

NONE OF THE
ARMAMENTS
ARE WORKING!



NONE OF THE
WEAPONS ON ANY
OF THE SHIPS ARE
FIRING!! WHAT IN
BLAZES IS WRONG
WITH THEM??

I DON'T KNOW,
BOSS!... BUT NOW
THE PILOT CONTROLS
AREN'T WORKING!
THE SHIP IS RE-
DUCING ITS SPEED...
IT'S APPROACHING
THE PLANET FOR
A LANDING!...
AND I CAN'T PULL
HER OUT OF IT!



IN SPITE OF OUR PILOTS' EFFORTS, EVERY
SHIP IN OUR FLEET MADE AN AUTOMATIC
LANDING ON THE WAITING PLANET!



WHEN OUR SHIPS LANDED, MY MEN AND I
CAME OUT OF THEM FIGHTING MAD!

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT WENT WRONG
WITH OUR ROCKET
SHIPS, MEN... BUT
WE'RE A LONG WAY
FROM BEING
STOPPED!

WE'LL FIGHT...
AND CONQUER
THESE PRIMITIVE
JOGS ON THEIR
OWN SOIL!



SUDDENLY, IT HAPPENED -- OUR BODIES STOPPED
RESPONDING TO OUR CONSCIOUS WILL! THEY
BECAME **CONTROLLED** BY SOME UNSEEN
FORCE MORE POWERFUL THAN OUR MENTAL
PROCESSES... A FORCE THAT MADE US COME
TO A HALT AND STAND IN STONY BEWILDER-
MENT!

I --
CAN'T MOVE!

WHAT'S -- HAPPENED
TO US???



NOW I'M WALKING! AND I
DON'T WANT TO! BUT I CAN'T
CONTROL THE MOVEMENTS OF
MY BODY! I CAN'T STOP!!!

MY LEGS ARE RESPOND-
ING TO SOME EXTERNAL
FORCE! ...AND I CAN'T
OVERCOME IT!

YOU NATIVES MUST BE
RESPONSIBLE! ... BUT
NOW? HOW CAN A SIMPLE
PRIMITIVE RACE, WITH-
OUT EVEN ANY WEAPONS,
CONTROL OUR SHIPS...
AND OUR
MOVEMENTS??!



SIMPLE?... PRIMITIVE?
WHY, IN THE EVOLUTIONARY
SCALE, WE'RE AT A MUCH
MORE ADVANCED STAGE
THAN YOU! WE'RE OF THE
RACE "HOMO SUPERIOR"...
AND IT WILL TAKE YOU
HUMAN AGES TO REACH
OUR STAGE OF
DEVELOPMENT!



AND AS FOR WEAPONS, WE NEVER
USE THEM! WE DON'T HAVE TO!

WE USE OUR MINDS!

WE ARE ABLE TO
CONTROL MATTER BY
OUR MINDS!

WHENEVER WE PLEASE, WE
CAN SIMPLY THINK A
SPACE SHIP INTO LANDING!
OR THINK A LESSER BEING
INTO STANDING STILL AND
DROPPING HIS WEAPON!

OUR MINDS
CONTROL MATTER
COMPLETELY! THAT'S
WHY WE NEED NO
MACHINERY ON OUR
PLANET!



AND NOW, WE WILL PUT YOU
BARBARIANS IN A PLACE
WHERE YOU CAN NEVER AGAIN
CAUSE HARM TO ANY OTHER
BEINGS IN THIS
UNIVERSE!



THE INHABITANTS OF THE PLANET TOOK US TO
THEIR PRISON... WHERE I AND MY MEN ARE
DESTINED TO REMAIN THE REST OF OUR DAYS!

THAT'S SANDOR!
THE MAN WHO
THINKS OF
EVERYTHING!

YEAH...THE GUY WHO
FIGURES ALL THE
ANGLES!

AW--
SHUT UP,
YOU --
BARBARIANS!



THE END

AFTER HOURS

THE STORE WAS A GAY AND BUSY PLACE DURING BUSINESS HOURS...BUT, NOW, THE STORE WAS CLOSED AND THE BOY WAS ALONE, CRYING OUT HIS LONELINESS!



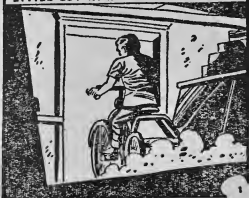
AND, IN A HOME NOT FAR FROM THAT STORE, DISTRAUGHT PARENTS TOLD THEIR STORY FOR THE DOZENTH TIME...

...AND HE WAS WITH US IN THE PARKING LOT, THEN, SUDDENLY HE WAS GONE!

HE COULDN'T GETTEN INTO THE WRONG CAR AND FALLEN A-SLEEP IN THE BACK SEAT! MIGHT EVEN BE IN THE CAR YET SLEEPING!



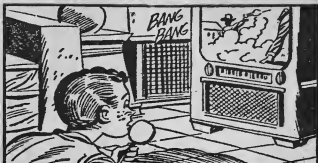
BUT HE WASN'T IN THE CAR! THE LITTLE BOY WASN'T SLEEPING EITHER..



THIS WAS A STRANGE AND WONDERFUL WORLD NOW! PERHAPS A TIMID CHILD WOULD'VE RUN SCREAMING THROUGH THE STORE. NIGHT EVEN, IN FACT, HAVE AWAKENED THE DOZING NIGHT WATCHMAN!



MOM AND DAD NEVER TOOK ME IN HERE...



THERE WAS A REFRIGERATOR...AND, INCREDIBLY, FOOD IN THERE!

MOM AND DAD NEVER LET ME STAY UP TO WATCH TELEVISION THIS LATE!



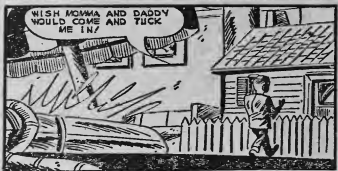
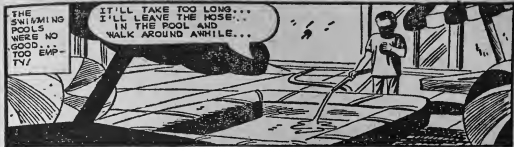
THERE WAS A BED AND THE TOT WAS TEMPTED BUT...

I'LL LOOK AT SOME MORE TOYS...

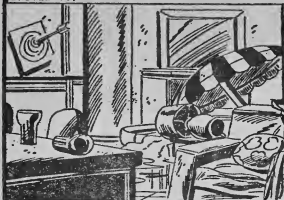


A FINGER PAINTING SET...





THE TOT AWAKENED LONG PAST SUN-UP...AFTER ALL...HE'D BEEN UP LATE...AND THE STORE SHOWED IT!



AN ORGANIZED GANG OF ROBBERS AND VANDALS DID THIS! WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE A STORE-WIDE INVENTORY AT ONCE! DOMOVAN, YOU'RE FIRED!



THE DOORS OPENED FOR BUSINESS AS USUAL...AND, WHILE EVERYONE ELSE FLOCKED IN THROUGH THE DOORS, ONE LITTLE BOY WANDERED OUT!



THE TOT PILED IN AND WAS ASLEEP AGAIN IN AN INSTANT...



THEY DIDN'T ASK ANY QUESTIONS... THEY REPORTED TO THE POLICE THAT THEY'D FOUND THEIR BOY AND THEY DROVE ON HOME!



END

THERE IT STOOD, ON THE MOUNTAIN THAT LOOMED OVER MIDVILLE... A SAGGING, WEATHER-BEATEN HOUSE, ALWAYS SHROUDED IN SHADOW, EVEN WHEN THE SUN SHONE BRIGHTLY OVERHEAD!

THE HOUSE OF SHADOWS!



THEN ONE DAY, A YOUNG MAN CAME TO MIDVILLE! HIS SMILE WAS SO WARM, HIS WORDS SO KINDLY... THAT THE TOWNSMEN FOUND THEMSELVES STRANGELY DRAWN TO HIM.

SO IT WAS NO WONDER THAT THEY WERE ALL DEWYERED WHEN THE STRANGER CALMLY SAID...





THEY WERE A WONDERFUL FAMILY! JUST BEING WITH THEM, MADE FOLKS FEEL GOOD INSIDE...



BUT THEN CAME THE THUNDERSTORM...THAT'S STAYED ON AS MIDVILLE'S BITTEREST MEMORY!

FOR AFTER THAT THUNDERSTORM, THE WONDERFUL FAMILY WAS NEVER SEEN NOR HEARD FROM AGAIN!

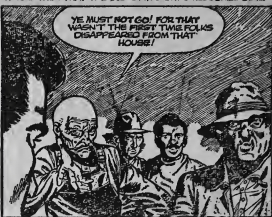


A LONG MOMENT PASSED WHILE THE TOWNSMEN
VIEWED THE STRANGER, HOPING THEIR STORY WOULD
TURN HIM FROM THE MOUNTAIN TRAIL! BUT THEN...



I'M GRATEFUL
FOR YOUR TRYING
TO WARN ME, BUT
I'M STILL GOING
UP!

IT WAS THEN THAT THE OLDEST MAN IN MIDVILLE CRIED OUT...



YE MUST NOT GO! FOR THAT
WASN'T THE FIRST TIME FOLKS
DISAPPEARED FROM THAT
HOUSE!



I REMEMBER MY FATHER TELLING
ME WHEN I WAS A LAD...ABOUT
ANOTHER FAMILY, OVER A HUNDRED
YEARS AGO THAT DISAPPEARED
THE SAME WAY!

NOW SURELY THE YOUNG STRANGER
WOULD TURN BACK, THEY THOUGHT!
BUT INSTEAD...



THANKS AGAIN! BUT THE
HOUSE IS WHY I TRAVELED TO
MIDVILLE...AND I'M GOING UP!

LATER...



HE'S ALMOST
THERE! HE'S
JUST REACHED
THE SHADOW'S
EDGE!

WE CAN'T
LET HIM GO
LIKE THE
OTHERS! WHO'LL
GO WITH
ME?

IT TOOK COURAGE TO MOUNT THE SHADOWED TRAIL THAT
HAD BEEN SHUNNED FOR SO MANY YEARS...



THE DOOR
JUST CLOSED
BEHIND HIM!

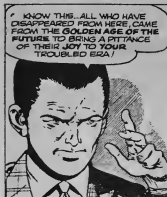
FASTER! WE HAVE
TO GET INSIDE BEFORE
ANYTHING CAN
HAPPEN!

NOW THEY HAD BURST THROUGH THE DOOR...



LOOK, HE'S
FADING!

THE YOUNG STRANGER WAS FROWNING AS HE RE-MATERIALIZED BEFORE THEIR EYES! HIS VOICE WAS GRAVE...



THE EVERLASTING SHADOW HAS MARKED THE HOUSE FOR US AS THE PASSING-POINT FOR TIME-TRAVEL! PUT WOE UNTO YOU...FOR NOW THAT YOU HAVE UNCOVERED THE SECRET...WE CAN COME NO MORE!



THE TOWNSMEN WERE AGHAST AT THE REVELATION...



THAT NIGHT, THERE WAS A VIOLENT THUNDERSTORM...AND IN THE MORNING...



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PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW